

HOUSE BILL 1473

By Byrd

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 6, Part 60, relative to required
standardized testing for high school juniors.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-6001(b), is amended by
deleting the subsection in its entirety and substituting instead:

(1) As a strategy for assessing student readiness to enter and succeed in
postsecondary training, every public school student shall take two (2) examinations, one
(1) administered at grade eight (8) and one (1) administered at grade ten (10).

(2) A student applying or intending to apply to attend an institution of higher
education awarding associate or baccalaureate degrees shall take an examination in
grade eleven (11) to assess the student's readiness to enter and succeed in higher
education. Students who do not intend to apply to attend an institution of higher
education awarding associate or baccalaureate degrees shall not be required to take the
examination. Any student in grade eleven (11) who desires to take the examination may
do so.

(3) The three (3) assessments shall be approved by the commissioner of
education and provide educators with diagnostic information to assist in developing
interventions for the purpose of increasing high school graduation rates and improving
student preparation for postsecondary achievement. Each year, the results of the
examinations shall be analyzed and reported by the commissioner of education to the
education committee of the senate and the education administration and planning
committee of the house of representatives.

(4) Notwithstanding this section or any other provision to the contrary:

(A) A student who has an individualized education program (IEP) and is applying or intending to apply to attend an institution of higher education awarding associate or baccalaureate degrees shall take an examination in grade eleven (11) to assess the student's readiness to enter and succeed in higher education; and

(B) A student with an IEP who does not intend to apply to attend an institution of higher education awarding associate or baccalaureate degrees may opt out of taking the examinations required in this section; provided, that the student may opt out of the examinations only with written approval from all members of the student's IEP team.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2016, the public welfare requiring it.